

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 SCEM-02 FPC-01 SS-15 NSC-10

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 INRE-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ CEN/ CR: JSULLIVAN: TK

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PHA/ FDRC: GBEAUCHAMP (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, BPRO, ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF THERMAL TURBINES

REF: A) SAN JOSE 1125; B) SAN JOSE1211

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKE TO VERNON TOOMBLEY OF TOOMBLEY ASSOCIATES RE INSTALLATION OF THERMAL TURBINES BY HIS COMPANY. TOOMBLEY IS VERY AWARE OF ENERGY CRISIS IN COSTA RICA, AND HAS BEEN IN DAILY TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH HIS ON- SITE CREW. HE ESTIMATED THAT ONE TURBINE WOULD BE OPERATIONAL TODAY, AND SECOND POSSIBLY OPERATING WITHIN SEVEN MORE DAYS. HE STRESSED THAT ALL POSSIBLE BEING DONE TO SPEED INSTALLATION INCLUDING ASSIGNMENT OF CREW FROM MEXICO TO COSTA RICA. HE IS ATTEMPTING TO HIRE ADDITIONAL ENGINEERS SO THAT INSTALLATION OF TWO TURBINES MAY PROCEED SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE HAS ALSO DISPATCHED VICE- PRESIDENT OF TOOMBLEY ASSOCIATES TO COSTA RICA TO ARRIVE APRIL 9 TO RE- ASSURE COSTA RICANS THAT ALL POSSIBLE BEING DONE.

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2. TOOMBLEY RAISED MERITS OF CASE, AND ARGUED THAT DELAY CAUSED BY FORCE MAJEURE, CITING PRINCIPALLY DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSPORTATION EXTERNAL TO U. S. DUE TO DIFFICULTIES WITH LIMON PORT, IT WAS NECESSARY TO TRANS- SHIP THROUGH PANAMA, AND PILFERING HAS BEEN PROBLEM. TOOMBLEY EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN KEEPING COSTA RICANS HAPPY SINCE ONLY BUSINESS OF HIS COMPANY IS INSTALLATION OF GAS TURBINES.

HE REQUESTED ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT HAVE ON RUMOR THAT COSTA RICAN USERS MIGHT SUE ICE WHICH IN TURN MIGHT SUE TOOMBLEY.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE OF THE RESULTS OF FURTHER EMBASSY INQUIRIES ON TURBINE INSTALLATION. DEPARTMENT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DIMENSIONS OF CRISIS. IF THE TWO GAS TURBINES CAN BE INSTALLED IN NEXT WEEK OR TWO, IS SITUATION STILL OF CRISIS PROPORTIONS? REF A INDICATES THAT TWO TURBINES WOULD PROVIDE 38,000 KW ABOUT HALF OF NEEDED EMERGENCY GENERATING CAPACITY.

WOULD THIS THEN BE SUFFICIENT FOR COSTA RICA TO OPERATE WITH RESTRICTIONS UNTIL RAINY SEASON, OR WOULD STILL MORE POWER BE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY?

ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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